

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An information offering apparatus for offering, via a communication network, information to a user of a product comprising a computer produced by combining parts selected from a plurality of parts, the apparatus comprising:

question-and-answer items storage unit means for storing question-and-answer items including questions for each of the plurality of parts and answers for the questions;

request-receiving means for receiving a request for offering information of the product from the user via the communication network, the request being generated by execution by the user of a short-cut link on a desktop screen of said computer, the short-cut link incorporating a plurality of part codes as parameters of a URL, the plurality of part codes corresponding to the parts selected from the plurality of parts;

information-obtaining means for obtaining part-related information related to a part constituting the product in response to receiving the request;

pick-up means for picking up, from the question-and-answer items storage means, at least one question-and-answer item related to the part constituting the product based on the part-related information that is obtained; and

transmission means for transmitting the question-and-answer item that is picked up to the user who has issued the request.

2. (Currently Amended) The information offering apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said information-obtaining means comprises one for obtaining the part-related information from the information received upon receipt of the request for offering information of the product from said request-receiving means.

3. (Original) The information offering apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said product comprises one that is so constituted as to request the offer for information of the product for the information offering apparatus via the communication network, and transmits the part-related information in response to the request at the time of request.

4. (Original) The information offering apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the request includes request information for offering information from said information offering apparatus via the communication network and the part-related information.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Original) The information offering apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the part-related information is stored in the product at a time of producing said product.

7. (Original) The information offering apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

related information storage means for storing product identification information relating to part-related information of the product; wherein

said request-receiving means comprises one for receiving product identification information in response to the receipt of the request; and

said information-obtaining means comprises one for obtaining corresponding part-related information from said related information storage means based on identification information that is received.

8. (Original) The information offering apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said product comprises one that is so constituted as to request the offer for information of the product for the information offering apparatus via the communication network, and transmits product identification information in response to the request at the time of request.

9. (Original) The information offering apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the request includes request information for offering information from said information offering apparatus via the communication network and product identification information.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Original) The information offering apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the identification information is stored in the product at a time of producing said product.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) An information offering method for offering, via a communication network, information to a user of a product comprising a computer produced by combining parts selected from a plurality of parts, the method comprising:

(a) storing, in advance, a plurality of question-and-answer items including questions for each of the plurality of parts and answers for the questions;

(b) obtaining part-related information related to a part constituting the product in response to receiving a request when the request is received from the user for offering information of the product via the communication network, the request being generated by execution by the user of a short-cut link on a desktop screen of said computer, the short-cut link incorporating a plurality of part codes as parameters of a URL, the plurality of part codes corresponding to the parts selected from the plurality of parts;

(c) picking up, from a plurality of question-and-answer items that are stored, at least one question-and-answer item related to the part constituting the product based on the part-related information that is obtained; and

(d) transmitting the question-and-answer item that is picked up to the user who has issued the request.

14. (Currently Amended) The information offering method according to claim 13, wherein said step (b) is one for obtaining the part-related information from the information received upon the receipt of the request.

15. (Original) The information offering method according to claim 13, further comprising storing, in advance, product/part-related information in which product identification information is related to part-related information of the product; wherein

said step (b) is one for receiving product identification information in response to the receipt of the request, and obtaining corresponding part-related information based on product/part-related information stored depending upon identification information that is received.

16-18. (Cancelled)